

COPY OF A COMMUNICATION

ADDRESSED TO

THE RIGHT HON. SIR C. W. DILKE, BART., M.P.,

BY

SIR JOHN LAMBERT, K.C.B., AND SIR FRANCIS
R. SANDFORD, K.C.B.,

RELATIVE TO

THE ALTERATIONS MADE AFTER LOCAL INQUIRY IN THE
PROVISIONAL SCHEMES FOR THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTIES
OF ARMAGH, DONEGAL, LONDONDERRY, TYRONE, AND DUBLIN,
AND THE BOROUGH OF DUBLIN.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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BOUNDARY COMMISSION (IRELAND).

SIR,

17th March, 1885.

IN compliance with your request to be furnished with information as to the alterations made by the Boundary Commissioners for Ireland, after local inquiry, in the provisional schemes for the Divisions of the counties of Armagh, Donegal, Londonderry, Tyrone, and Dublin, and the borough of Dublin, we beg to annex copies of the informal Reports made to us by the Commissioners, who held the inquiries in the cases of the four first-named counties. These Reports, which were sent for our information before the Commissioners decided upon the Divisions to be ultimately adopted, show generally the objections that were offered at the inquiries to the original schemes of the Commissioners, and also the nature of the alternative schemes then suggested. They also contain the recommendations of the Commissioners holding the inquiries with reference to the several matters brought under their notice.

In addition to these Reports we were furnished with the memorials and other documents handed in both at and after the inquiries, and also with newspaper Reports of the proceedings.

The result of the inquiries relative to the Divisions of the county and borough of Dublin was reported to us verbally by our colleagues at the full meetings of the Commission held in London for the purpose of deciding various questions reserved for discussion and determination by the whole body and of agreeing upon our general Report.

We have, however, appended notes showing the general grounds upon which it appeared that the provisional schemes in the two last-mentioned cases required revision.

We have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN LAMBERT,

FRANCIS R. SANDFORD.

To the Right Hon. Sir C. W. Dilke, Bart., M.P.,
President of the Local Government Board.

COUNTY OF ARMAGH.

COPY REPORT (INFORMAL) AFTER LOCAL INQUIRY BY MAJOR MACPHERSON, R.E.

The inquiry was held in the Courthouse at Armagh at 1 p.m. on the 6th January 1885.

There was a large attendance, and much interest was shown in the proceedings.

I first explained that an error of 1,200 had been made in calculating the populations in the Commissioners' scheme, as between No. 1 (Lurgan) and No. 2 (Armagh) Divisions. The former had been stated to have 55,033 population, this should have been 56,233. The latter had been stated to have 51,166 population, this should have been 49,966. There was, therefore, really a disparity of 6,267 in population between No. 1 and No. 2.

Mr. Thomas Carey, solicitor, Newry, appeared on behalf of the firm, which owns not only the mills at Bessbrook near Newry, but most of the property near there. The firm objects to No. 3 Division being called the "Bessbrook" Division, as they do not wish either the place or the name to be prominently connected with political matters. They would, in preference, suggest that the name of the parish "Kilcavy," in which Bessbrook is situated, should be given to the Division.

Mr. Peel, solicitor, Armagh, appeared for the town commissioners of Armagh. He said the population told off in the Commissioners' scheme for the Armagh (No. 2) Division was too small, considering the importance of the town of Armagh, and that it hitherto had had a number of its own. (I here pointed out that this seemed to be more of a grievance for other Divisions, as the proportional value of the votes in the Armagh Division was thereby increased; but *Mr. Peel* said this did not hold good in Armagh, which wanted more people.) The Armagh or No. 2 Division should include the part of Kilmore parish, which is in the barony of Lower Orior, and also the parishes of Ballymore and Loughgilly in that barony; that geographical considerations favoured this view, those parishes being nearer to Armagh than to Newry in No. 3 Division; and that the people of those parishes wished to join Armagh instead of Newry.

He handed in a plan and statement showing what he proposed. The main features of the plan were the transfer of the above parishes to Armagh or No. 2 Division from No. 3, and in exchange the transfer of Keady parish and its neighbourhood from No. 2 to No. 3; and the plan also proposed to transfer the parishes of Loughgall and Clonfence (the parts in the barony of O'Neilland West) to No. 2 or Armagh Division.

Mr. Best, solicitor, Armagh, stated in support of *Mr. Peel's* plan, on behalf of the people of Loughgall and Clonfence, that they wished to join the Armagh or No. 2 Division; that the part of Kilmore parish, which is in O'Neilland West also wished to join No. 2 instead of No. 1, but as this would disturb the proportions of population in the two Divisions, they would not insist on the latter transfer.

Mr. Maxwell O'Hare, M.P., on behalf of the town of Tangemagee and the parish of Ballymore, supported *Mr. Peel's* plan.

Mr. Monroe, solicitor, Armagh, on behalf of Ballymore and Loughgilly, also supported *Mr. Peel's* plan, and added that it was right that Keady should go from No. 2 Division to No. 3 or the Bessbrook Division, as both Keady and Bessbrook were manufacturing towns.

Mr. B. J. Hardey, D.L., as a resident in Ballymore, concurred.

But *Mr. Ivor Magenis*, another resident in Ballymore, objected to this view, and considered that all the barony of Lower Orior by right belongs, and always has belonged, to the southern part of the county.

Mr. Atkinson, solicitor, Tangemagee, said all Kilmore and Ballymore are placed in the coroner's district for the North Division of the county; and *Mr. Bartow*, farmer, Ballymore, said the people there wanted to belong to the North.

But the *Rev. Canon Coyne*, P.P., of Clonfence, objected to *Mr. Peel's* plan; the Commissioners' scheme followed the barony boundaries better. *Mr. Peel's* plan also would not give a proper proportion of population. The parish of Ballymore is as near to Newry as to Armagh, and Clonfence is as near to Lurgan as to Armagh.

Mr. Hugh Wallace, Portadown, said he had been instructed by the town commissioners of Portadown to support *Mr. Peel's* plan.

Mr. Small, M.P., for the Nationalists, objected to Keady being added to No. 3 Division. Considered the Commissioners' scheme fair; it adheres to barony boundaries. Keady has no connexion with Newry; it is in the union of Armagh. When Newry

people want to go to Keady they have to go through Armagh. There is a chain of hills between Newry and Keady. Lower Orior, on the other hand, is in the corner's district of Newry; it has a railway to Newry. Loughgilly parish is quite close to Newry, and the whole of the barony is more closely connected with Newry than with Armagh. As to Kilmore parish, the part in Lower Orior might be much better attached to Lurgan (No. 1 Division) than to Armagh (No. 2). As to Loughgall and Clonfeacle, he objected less to their being joined to Armagh than to the other parts of Mr. Peel's plan, which he considered was brought forward solely for political purposes. Wished another meeting to be held, as he had not had time to get his case ready. Was told that this was impossible, but he could forward any statements or plans to the Commissioners in Dublin.

Mr. Peel denied that his plan was brought forward for political purposes; it was brought forward as an improvement on geographical grounds. Keady should be joined to Newry. A tramway is to be made between the two places, both of which are manufacturing.

Mr. Peter Campbell, Keady, said the Keady people were not associated with Bessbrook or Newry; they preferred being attached to Armagh.

Mr. Thomas Shillington, for the Liberals, thought Loughgall and part of Clonfeacle should belong to No. 1 or Lurgan Division, and the Ballymore people do not want to be in the Southern Division. Loughgilly, on the other hand, should belong to the Bessbrook or No. 3 Division. There is too much difference (about 6,000) in the Commissioners' scheme between No. 1 and No. 2 Division in population; all Kilmore parish should belong to Armagh or No. 2. Handed in a plan and statement of his proposals, which were generally to follow parish instead of barony boundaries; to throw all the north part of the barony of Lower Orior into No. 2 or Armagh Division out of No. 3, and to throw Keady and its neighbourhood out of No. 2 into No. 3; i.e., in great part this scheme follows Mr. Peel's, differing from it in details as to parishes.

Rev. Mr. McGeehan, C.C., Armagh, supported Mr. Small's views. Loughgall and part of Clonfeacle in Oneilland West should be added to No. 2 or Armagh Division. This would be an improvement as to compactness. Knows Keady well; it does not want to join Newry. Would propose that No. 2 or Armagh Division should have 51,000 people, and the other two should have about 51,000 each; this would be effected by joining Loughgall, &c. to Armagh Division.

Mr. Small objected to this increase of Armagh. If Loughgall and Clonfeacle were joined to Armagh Division, then Mallabrack, with 1,339 inhabitants, should be attached to No. 3 or Bessbrook Division. I think Mr. Small also remarked that the town commissioners of Armagh and Portadown really represented the Conservative party.

As to names, Mr. Shillington proposed—

North Armagh,
Mid Armagh (or Central),
South Armagh,

supported by Mr. Peel and by the town clerk of Portadown. Mr. Small did not object to those names, but would suggest as an alternative "Oneilland" for the North, "Armagh" for the Central, and "Orior" for the South Division. No one supported the names proposed by the Commissioners.

Since the meeting memorials have been received by the Commissioners in Dublin,—

1. From the town commissioners of Keady, unanimously protesting against Keady being transferred from No. 2 or Armagh Division to No. 3 or Bessbrook Division; and
2. From the town commissioners of Tandragee, unanimously protesting against that district being included in No. 3 or Bessbrook Division, and applying for it to be united to No. 2 or Armagh Division, or, if that is impossible, then to No. 1 or Lurgan Division.

Other memorials have been received, but they merely repeat the above arguments.

With reference to the above proceedings, I believe it to be established that the parishes of Ballymore and Kilmore desire to belong to the same Division as Armagh (i.e., the northern part of the barony of Lower Orior so desires); and similarly that the parish of Keady and the district between it and Armagh also desire to belong to the same Division as Armagh.

As to pursuits in this county, the Northern Division includes considerable industrial towns, such as Lurgan and Portadown. In the central part of the county there is also

a considerable, although smaller industrial element. For instance, there are flax mills at Armagh and Keady, and scattered along the course of the river between those towns. The district round Tanderagee is also certainly more identified as to pursuits with the northern than with the southern part of the county. It seems to me, therefore, that, on the ground of pursuits as well as of the wishes of the people, the districts round Keady and Tanderagee should be included in the Central Division with Armagh town. The southern part of the county, excepting Newry and Bessbrook, is entirely agricultural, and a good deal of the district is hilly or mountainous, with a less advanced class of agriculture than obtains in the northern part.

Also the Commissioners' scheme should be modified so as more nearly to equalise the populations of Nos. 1 and 2 Districts, the difference of 6,000 being too great. This can best be done by transferring a sufficient part of the parish of Kilmore (the part in Oneilland West barony) from No. 1, or Lurgan, to No. 2, or Armagh Division, leaving the rest of No. 1 Division undisturbed. This, however, cuts not only a barony, but a parish. And, similarly, the object of throwing Keady and Tanderagee into the same division as Armagh town cannot be effected without cutting both baronies and parishes.

I would, however, recommend that under the circumstances of this county that course be adopted. Some of the baronies in this county are very irregular in shape; for instance, Oneilland West has a long narrow projection southward; Upper Fews has a very long and narrow projection northward, and it is impossible in any case to avoid cutting those boundaries. Tyranny on the west, and Lower Orior on the east, are long narrow strips. The parishes in this county also, in a great many cases, overlap the barony boundaries, as in the cases of Keady, Kilmore, Loughgall, and many others. So that in this case we must fall back upon townland areas to a considerable extent, and divide the large parishes of Kilmore, Ballymore, Loughgall, Kilscooney, and Lisnadill, so as to get the Divisions as compact as possible, with as regular boundaries as possible, and containing populations as nearly equal and of as similar pursuits as possible.

The plan marked Scheme No. 2 has been drawn up with this view. It will be seen that No. 1 Division is as compact if not more compact than before. No. 2 is as compact as it can be made consistently with, including the desired areas round Tanderagee and Keady; while No. 3 is much more compact than before. The only point sacrificed, therefore, is that we have to fall back upon townland areas in a few parishes, although in the main the barony Divisions are still adhered to.

Mr. White and Mr. Bourke concur with me in recommending this scheme No. 2, and also as to the names below.

As to names of the Divisions, I beg to recommend—

For No. 1, North Armagh,

„ No. 2, Mid Armagh,

„ No. 3, South Armagh.

The name "Mid Armagh," becomes more applicable under the proposed scheme No. 2 than it would have been under the original scheme of the Commissioners.

(Signed) J. C. MACPHERSON.

COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

COPY REPORT (INFORMAL) AFTER LOCAL INQUIRY BY MR. PIERCE F. WHITE, Q.C.

I held the inquiry for the co. Donegal in the Courthouse at Lifford on the 30th of December.

Much public interest was taken in the inquiry, and many persons attended.

Mr. O'Dogerty, solicitor, appeared nominally for Dr. Logue, the R. C. Bishop of Raphoe; and he and several others were virtually representing the "Nationalist" party.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Todd, two other solicitors, appeared ostensibly for themselves, or other inhabitants or ratepayers, but in reality represented respectively the Conservative and Liberal parties in the county.

The first objection to the Divisions proposed by the Commission was that the baronies of Banagh and Tirhugh should not be separated, but should be united into one Division, to be called "South Donegal," with a total population of 52,865.

This objection was urged by all parties with a remarkable unanimity, and was, in my opinion, very well sustained, as being an improvement on the scheme originally projected. It affords a more compact district, and one more in unison with the geographical conditions, and the pursuits of the populations, whilst not in the least interfering with the baronial boundaries.

But, this alteration being conceded, the rest of the arrangement involved some controversy and consideration.

The proposal on behalf of the Nationalist party, or their representatives, was that the barony of Boyleagh, detached from Banagh (to which it had been attached in our original scheme), should be united to the barony of South Raphoe, and that this latter barony, along with some parishes to be taken from North Raphoe, should then along with Boyleagh be formed into a Division, to be called "Mid Donegal," with a population of about 51,000.

The reasons mainly assigned in support of this proposal were the identity of pursuits of the people, geographical contiguity, and greater alleged facility of road communication;—a mountainous district between Boyleagh and the barony of Kilmacrennan on the north, causing, as it was alleged, the intercourse of Boyleagh with Raphoe on the eastward to be more easy than with Kilmacrennan to the northward.

This proposal as to the constitution of a Mid-Donnegal Division was met by counter-proposals, urged separately by Mr. Todd, LL.D., on behalf of the Liberal party, and by Mr. Wilson, solicitor, representing the Conservative interest in the county. Their counter proposals, however, in the main concurred in substance and in principle, and after careful consideration I recommend this principle for adoption, as being most in conformity with our instructions, as to the compactness of Divisions, the pursuits of the populations, and in fact under all the circumstances the best Division that can be made. And accordingly a new map has been constructed by the Survey Department, in accordance with the principles which I recommend should be adopted in dealing with county of Donegal.

Under the new and amended map it will be seen that the barony of Boyleagh (population 22,448) is joined to the bulk of the barony of Kilmacrennan to the north-east, forming a Division with a continuous sea-coast line on the Atlantic, and comprising a homogeneous population and compact outline. In fact this Division (West Donegal) is formed on the very principle so approved in the case of South Donegal, of uniting the sea-coast or fishing, as distinguished from the inland, population and interests.

On the other hand, South Raphoe is left in union with North Raphoe (united population 40,084), its natural neighbour; and the requisite standard of population is made up by additions from West Innishowen and Kilmacrennan, of adjoining parishes and townlands whose inhabitants are more nearly allied in agricultural pursuits and habits of general intercourse with those of the eastern than with the western and far less cultivated districts.

The Southern, Eastern, and Western districts being thus arranged, North Donegal will consist of East Innishowen and Kilmacrennan, indicated on the amended map (with a total population of 50,840), whilst the population of Boyleagh [22,448] united to the bulk of Kilmacrennan, after the subtraction of the parishes and townlands respectively allotted from Kilmacrennan to Innishowen [North Donegal] and Raphoe [East Donegal] will bring up the population of West Donegal to 51,321.

This is, in my opinion, the best possible division of the county under the circumstances. I have submitted it to my colleagues here, and they on consideration concur in my views of it. I should have mentioned that I do not place any serious importance on the circumstance that Lough Swilly, an arm or inlet of the sea (but a narrow one), traversed by at least one steam ferry, runs in through the Northern Division between the peninsulas of Innishowen and Fannad in Kilmacrennan.

This fact, if it be an objection (any more than a large river) is counterbalanced by the consideration that the riparian inhabitants at both sides are of a homogeneous class in pursuits, intercourse, fishing occupations, &c., even in language, as Irish is generally spoken along the north-western coasts of this county; and the inhabitants of the peninsulas of Innishowen and Fannad are much more allied with each other than with the people of the inland and more fertile and cultivated interior parts of the county of Donegal adjoining to Londonderry and Tyrone.

An amended map has been accordingly prepared, and accompanies my Report, with a schedule of contents annexed, and we recommend it for adoption.

I may add that Captain Johnston, R.E., has also devised an alternative scheme (the schedule of contents of which, with a short memo. by him, are also attached to the map), and by this alternative the division of any parish is avoided, although it does

not result in such an equal distribution of population as the other arrangement. He suggests that, if desired, this latter defect could be lessened by a separation of some townlands from Tullyfern parish in North Donegal. But we recommended the adoption of the map as it now stands as the best mode of dealing with this county. Besides, the alternative plan would involve a result, if possible, to be avoided, viz., the separation of Burt parish from East Donegal, to which it is most naturally united.

PIERS F. WHITE.

COUNTY OF LONDONDERRY.

COPY REPORT (INFORMAL) AFTER LOCAL INQUIRY BY MR. PIERS F. WHITE, Q.C.

I held this inquiry in the Courthouse in Londonderry on the 20th of January 1885.

There was a large attendance, several persons, including solicitors, representing the different parties interested, and all objecting to the proposed Division, except Mr. James O'Dogherty, solicitor, and others (who expressed the views of the National party, and objected to any alteration of it).

The first case taken up was that of the Corporation of the city of Derry, who presented a memorial with 120 signatures (some very influential), praying that the north-west liberties of the city should be added to the city proper, so as to bring up the population of the parliamentary borough of Derry from 29,162 to nearly 33,000. The mayor and others made statements in support of this proposal, which resolved themselves into general allegations, (1) that the city was gradually extending into these liberties; (2) that the interests of the inhabitants of both city and liberties were identical, having little connexion with the rest of the county; and (3) that their proposal, if adopted, would tend to limit the "*disparity in value*" of a county and a borough vote by decreasing the population of the county constituencies and increasing that of the borough.

As to the first of these points, it appeared that there were really no contiguous streets or urban districts forming any substantial part of the city proper, and running out into the rural liberties, which form an area nearly 10 miles long by two or three miles in width of a pastoral or agricultural character.

The second point was also of a very unsubstantial character; and as to the third, it would seem that, if it be really intelligible, it would lead to a contrary inference from that suggested, and rather lead to the conclusion that the less numerous the constituency the more valuable would be the vote.

I have therefore no difficulty in rejecting the proposal of the Corporation.

An application was then urged by Sir Harvey Bruce and others, on behalf of the merged borough of Coleraine (population under 7,000), that the north-east liberties of Coleraine should be added to it, so as to bring up the population over 15,000, and so entitle it to retain its member.

I informed them that this was a question with which I had no power to deal; that it could only be entertained by Parliament.

Mr. James O'Dogherty, solicitor, and others, representing "the Nationalists," contented themselves with saying they were satisfied with the proposal of the Commissioners, and opposed any alteration of it.

Alternative schemes, supported by maps and schedules, were put forward by Mr. Lane, solicitor, for the Conservative, and Dr. Todd for the Liberal party.

Both of these schemes concur to a certain point, in which, I think, they are an improvement on our original proposal. They agree in urging that the baronies of Tirkeeran and Keenaght should not be divided by detaching from them (as we had proposed to do) the parishes of Learmount, Banagher, Dungiven, and part of Bovevagh.

These detached parishes contain a gross population of 9,147, and by leaving them united with their own baronies a more compact Division would be attained, and they are so separated by a high and almost uninhabited range of mountains, from the bulk of the large barony Loughinsollin, with which they were in our original scheme proposed to be united, that in a geographical point of view they are far more naturally connected with the city of Derry and the town of Limerick than with any of the towns in Loughinsollin.

This suggested improvement, which is, I think, one that recommends itself, would necessitate a corresponding deduction from No. 1 Division, to make up the population of No. 2.

One of the alternative schemes for this purpose (Mr. Lane's) suggests generally that No. 2 Division should be compensated by subtracting from No. 1 and the barony of Coleraine so many parishes and townlands as might be necessary immediately to the north of Loughinshollin, *e.g.*, Desertoghill, Aghadowey, &c., so as to equalise the population with No. 1.

The other alternative scheme, Dr. Todd's, which he supported by a carefully prepared map and schedules (showing a due equality of population), proposed the constitution of an Eastern Division to be called the "Coleraine Division" of the county, bounded by the county of Antrim on the east side, on the north by the sea, on the west by a line partially intersecting the baronies of Coleraine and Loughinshollin, and on the south by the county Tyrone.

This arrangement certainly had several arguments to recommend it. It united districts which are subject to liability for special rates in respect of the improvement of the Bann navigation, and also under the baronial guarantee for the central line of railway traversing this district from the north in a southerly direction. It comprised the towns of Coleraine, Kilrea, Garvagh, Maghera, Magherafelt, and other small towns.

After consulting all my colleagues, I ultimately arrived, with their concurrence, at the decision that the best mode of dividing the county would be by a line running from the S.W. in a N.E. direction, leaving the baronies of Tirkeeran and Keenaght on the one side, and Loughinshollin on the other, entire, and making up the population of the Southern Division by subtracting from the barony of Coleraine, adjoining Loughinshollin on the north, a sufficient number of parishes and townlands to make up the population to the necessary amount.

This plan was in fact that which was first contemplated by Major Macpherson, as most conformable to the geographical and other circumstances of the county; but we had framed our map, as it originally stood, without perhaps so mature a consideration as we afterwards gave to this difficult case.

Captain Johnston has accordingly prepared an amended map on the principles we ultimately adopted, and I suggest that it should be adopted as the best. It leaves a larger population by some 3,000 in the Southern Division; but this was purposely designed, as the expansion of Coleraine town and the city of Londonderry seems to require a counterpoise.

(Signed) PIERCE F. WHITE.

COUNTY TYRONE.

COPY REPORT (INFORMAL) AFTER LOCAL INQUIRY BY MAJOR MACPHERSON, R.E.

The local inquiry was held at Omagh on the 8th January 1885 at 12 noon.

The court-house was full, and great interest was taken in the proceedings.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, appeared for the Conservatives.

He said that the No. 1 Division (Strabane) of the Commissioners looks well on the map, and is very compact, but that in uniting the two baronies of Upper Strabane and Lower Strabane it goes against the features of the country and the pursuits of the people. Those two baronies are naturally divided from each other by a chain of mountains and by a river, the communication between the two is difficult, and near Strabane, in Lower Strabane, the pursuits of the people are largely manufacturing, while Upper Strabane is entirely agricultural. On the other hand, the barony of West Omagh is by its interests and pursuits entirely identified with Lower Strabane, the communication between the two is easy, there being a tramway from Strabane to Castlederg in West Omagh, and in both baronies there is a good deal of manufacturing industry. The first part of the scheme, therefore, which he would propose unites the two baronies of Lower Strabane and West Omagh; and on the same grounds he would propose to unite East Omagh with Upper Strabane, both these baronies are identical as to pursuits, being entirely agricultural; the communications of both are mainly with the town of Omagh, and if they are divided as in the Commissioners' scheme, the town of Omagh itself will be cut in two, part of it being in Upper Strabane and part in East Omagh. By his scheme the town will be all in one Division. This proposal,

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however, will create an inequality in the population, that of Lower Strabane with West Omagh being 45,704, while that of Upper Strabane with East Omagh would be 52,808, a difference of 6,604. To remedy this inequality he would propose that, if it is considered necessary, certain townlands of the parish of Upper Bodoney in Upper Strabane barony should be transferred to No. 1 or Strabane Division, with a population of 2,322; this would give for No. 1 or Strabane Division a total of 48,026, and for No. 2 or Omagh Division a population of 49,986. This small transfer would round off the divisional boundary, and the townlands to be transferred are those nearest to and most connected with the town of Strabane.

Mr. Moore's second objection was to the dividing line between Divisions Nos. 3 and 4 in the Commissioners' scheme. This line cuts the town of Dungannon, part of which is in the parishes of Donaghmore and Clonfacle, and is transferred with these parishes to No. 4 or Clogher Division, while the bulk of the town is in No. 3 or Dungannon Division. To remedy this he would transfer all townlands of Clonfacle and Donaghmore within two miles of Dungannon from No. 4 to No. 3, viz., 10 townlands without about 605 people. This would increase the present disparity between Nos. 3 and 4, but as Dungannon has hitherto had a member of its own, its Division should have more people than the Clogher Division.

As to names of Divisions, he prefers the points of the compass.

He hands in a plan and statement explaining his proposals.

Mr. Wilson, solicitor, Strabane, appeared for Lower Strabane and West Omagh in support of Mr. Moore's scheme. Omagh is the headquarters of Upper Strabane, while all the traffic of West Omagh goes to Castlederg and Strabane. There are spinning companies both in West Omagh and Lower Strabane. The Commissioners' Division No. 2, of East and West Omagh, is very straggling.

Rev. Mr. Lyle, minister of Ardstraw, said all the traffic of West Omagh goes through his parish to Strabane. The valuation of West Omagh and Lower Strabane being much greater than that of East Omagh and Upper Strabane, he does not think the population of the former is too small, or that the Bodoney townlands need be transferred as proposed by Mr. Moore, but otherwise supports him.

Mr. Simmons, solicitor, Dungannon, appeared for the member for Dungannon borough, and for one of the county members (Mr. Dickson, M.P.).

He said West Omagh and Lower Strabane should go together as in Mr. Moore's scheme, but does not otherwise approve of Mr. Moore's plan, or that of the Commissioners.

He considers that the baronies of Middle and Lower Dungannon should be kept together as they are similar in pursuits, there being a considerable manufacturing industry in the two baronies, and that Upper Dungannon and Upper Strabane should be united, as containing the mountainous districts of the county; while East Omagh should be united with Clogher barony, both being entirely agricultural. The above are the main lines of his proposals, but they are modified in two places by transfers of parishes.

As to names, he prefers the county name retained in the Divisions, with the points of the compass.

Mr. Reynolds, solicitor, Dungannon, said he appeared on behalf of the majority of the county, consisting of 110,000 Roman Catholics. He approved of the Commissioners' scheme. Mr. Moore's scheme, he said, is as straggling as the Commissioners' one. The proposed transfer of townlands near Dungannon is merely intended to swamp the small Catholic majority in Middle and Upper Dungannon. As to the town of Omagh, it has only 300 people in Upper Strabane. The equality of population should be strictly adhered to, and is not so well attained in the other schemes as in that of the Commissioners.

Mr. Todd, solicitor, said he appeared for himself, and for Lower Strabane and West Omagh. Afterwards he said he appeared for the Radicals.

He supported Mr. Moore's scheme, so far as uniting the baronies of Lower Strabane and West Omagh, Strabane being the centre of the district and of the wealthy valley of the Derg River; and, even if the population is now less, it is increasing, and will soon be equal to that of the other Divisions where the population is decreasing. But the mountainous districts of Upper Dungannon and Upper Strabane should be kept together; also Middle and Lower Dungannon should be in the same Division; also Clogher and East Omagh. Had as yet no plan ready, but will send one.

(The plan has since been received. This scheme is on the same general lines as that of Mr. Simmons, but appears to cut some parishes in order to get straight dividing lines, or obtain more equal populations.)

Mr. Hardman, Sion Mills, Strabane, said the people of Lower Strabane and West Omagh want to be in the same Division.

Mr. Macartney, M.P., supported Mr. Moore's plan, he said Omagh is the market town for Upper Strabane; Mr. Todd's (and Mr. Simmons's) view as to connecting East Omagh and Clogher baronies is not correct, Clogher should be attached to Lower Dungannon, on this point he can speak as a resident in Clogher, and as Chairman of Clogher Valley Tramway Company, a line which connects Clogher with the Eastern part of the county. But, although he belongs to the Southern district, he does not object to the 600 people near Dungannon being transferred to Division No. 3; prefers the baronies of Lower Strabane and West Omagh to remain, without any addition to their population from Upper Strabane.

Mr. William King, Chairman of the Tramway Company from Castlederg in West Omagh to Strabane, said they have carried a great number of people between those places, and their traffic is satisfactory; this shows the connexion between West Omagh and Lower Strabane.

Mr. Moore replying to Mr. Reynolds said remarks about religion do not affect the question.

The Rev. Dean Byrne approved of the Commissioners' scheme, but if it had to be altered would suggest the following scheme:—

1. Lower Strabane and West Omagh, as in all the other schemes.
2. Upper Strabane and Upper Dungannon plus Donagherry parish from Middle Dungannon.
3. Middle Dungannon and Lower Dungannon less Donagherry and plus Errigal Kerrogue from Clogher.
4. Clogher and East Omagh, less Errigal Kerrogue.

This would give the towns of Strabane, Cookstown, Dungannon, and Omagh as centres for the Divisions, the Divisions would be almost entirely baronial, and no parish would be divided. He would, however, prefer the Commissioners' scheme as it stands if left complete.

Rev. Mr. Toner, C.O., concurred with Dean Byrne.

Rev. C. Kelly, P.P., Drumquin, objected to East Omagh being divided from West Omagh, especially his parish of Langfield, which is closely connected with the town of Omagh.

Rev. Mr. Murphy, P.P., Termonmaguirk, was in favour of the Commissioners' scheme; East and West Omagh should not be separated.

Rev. Mr. McCartan, P.P. of Donaghmore parish, said he presided on the 2nd instant at a Nationalist meeting for the whole county, the meeting approved of the Commissioners' scheme, no other is better as to equalising population. All Mr. Moore wants by his proposed transfer of 10 townlands from Donaghmore parish near Dungannon is to get a member for the Dungannon division; sees no reason for this transfer.

Mr. David Hunter, Inmicer, Langfield, said his farm produce goes to Strabane, not to Omagh.

Mr. Elliott, J.P., Chairman of the Omagh Town Commissioners, protested against the town of Omagh being cut by a division-line, as proposed by the scheme of the Boundary Commissioners. The parish of Cappagh (Upper Strabane) should be in the same division as Omagh.

As to Names of the Divisions.

Mr. Simmons handed in a memorandum from Cookstown, claiming on behalf of that town to give the name to No. 3 Division instead of Dungannon.

Rev. Dean Byrne preferred the points of the compass with the county name, except in the case of the Dungannon Division.

All the others preferred the county name in all cases.

With reference to the above proceedings I am of opinion that it was clearly established at the meeting that the baronies of Lower Strabane and West Omagh should be in the same Division, and this view is supported by all the other information available as to the pursuits and wishes of the people of those baronies.

The question remains whether the rest of the county should be entirely re-cast, or whether Upper Strabane and East Omagh should be placed in one Division, and the rest of the Commissioners' scheme should remain. I do not think the cases for

re-casting all the rest of the county have been made out. The Divisions of the county in the Commissioners' scheme are certainly not so compact as they might be; but this arises from the shape of the baronies, on which the Commissioners' scheme is founded. Nor, speaking generally, do the alternative schemes show Divisions more compact. The Division proposed, for instance, to include Upper Dungannon and Upper Strabane in the alternative schemes is extremely straggling. As to pursuits of the population, the arguments for entirely re-casting the entire county are weak, and far different from the almost unanimously expressed opinion that Lower Strabane and West Omagh should be united in the same Division. Although, for instance, it is argued that Middle and Lower Dungannon should be united, and that Clogher and East Omagh should be together, it is not asserted that the disposal of these baronies as the Commissioners proposed is in itself wrong with reference to the pursuits of the people, while there are strong opinions on the other side, viz., that on that point the scheme of the Commissioners is as good as any.

I am of opinion, therefore, that the Commissioners' scheme should be modified by uniting the baronies of Lower Strabane and West Omagh, and the baronies of Upper Strabane and East Omagh. In other respects it should remain as before. It is, however, desirable (although I do not think absolutely necessary) to equalise more nearly the population of the Divisions so constituted, the population of Lower Strabane and West Omagh being less than that of Upper Strabane and East Omagh by more than 6,000 people. I can find no better way of doing this than that suggested in Mr. Moore's scheme, viz., transferring certain townlands of Upper Bodoney parish from the Omagh or No. 2 Division to the Strabane or No. 1 Division. This would reduce the inequality of population between the two Divisions to less than 2,000 people, and I beg to recommend it.

The other suggestion made by Mr. Moore, on behalf of the Conservatives, to transfer 10 townlands near Dungannon (in Donaghmore and Clonfence parishes) from No. 4 to No. 3 Division, so as to complete the town of Dungannon, there is no justification whatever for. There are a mill and a few houses in one townland of Donaghmore parish, namely, Ballysagart, which might possibly be called part of the town of Dungannon; but the whole population of this townland is only 128, and it would be useless to disturb the disposal of the parish on their account. The other neighbouring townlands are exclusively agricultural, and there can be no inconvenience caused by the whole parish remaining in No. 4 Division as proposed.

As to names, I would recommend those which appeared to be desired by the majority of the people for the several Divisions, viz. :—

- No. 1.—North Tyrone Division.
- „ 2.—Mid Tyrone „
- „ 3.—East Tyrone „
- „ 4.—South Tyrone „

Mr. White and Mr. Burke concur in the above report.

(Signed) J. C. MACPHERSON.

NOTE.

DUBLIN COUNTY.

At the inquiry for this county various objections were raised to the union of Rathmines and the adjoining populous places lying to the south and west of the city with the districts situated to the north of the county, as proposed by the original scheme; and it was pointed out that the inhabitants of these townships had little or no connexion with the rural districts to which it was proposed they should be attached, and that, on the other hand, their relations with the towns lying to the south were direct and intimate.

Having regard to the express direction in the instructions that care should be taken in all those cases where there are populous localities of an urban character to include them in one and the same Division, it appeared to the Commissioners, after a full consideration of all the circumstances brought under their notice, that it was incumbent on them to re-adjust their provisional scheme so as to obviate the objections above referred to; and by reference to their report it will be seen that they have been enabled to form the urban and suburban districts on the west and south of the city of Dublin into one compact and homogeneous Division of the county, and that under this arrangement the population of the two Divisions is more nearly equalised than under their original plan.

DUBLIN (BOROUGH).

Reference is made in the general report of the Commissioners to the proposal of the Corporation of Dublin to extend the Parliamentary boundaries of the borough by the inclusion of several adjoining suburban districts containing in the aggregate a population of over 44,000; and an explanation is given in the report, of the reasons why that proposal could not be entertained.

The main objection to the provisional scheme for dividing the borough as comprised within the existing boundaries appeared to be that it intersected four of the municipal wards, one of them being divided into four parts; a further objection was that in some instances obsolete parochial boundaries had been adopted.

An alternative scheme was presented by the corporation in which the whole of the wards were preserved intact, and this was supported by the National League and National Registration Society. After giving this proposal careful consideration it appeared to the Commissioners that they could not properly adopt it, inasmuch as it was evident that the Corporation, in their desire to preserve the integrity of the wards, had ignored the more important principle of grouping together populations of similar pursuits, whereas the Commissioners, on the contrary, had, by intersecting a small number only of the wards, succeeded in bringing together in one Division the inhabitants on both sides of the river below bridge following kindred occupations, and also in forming one Division of the large residential area on the south. At the same time the Commissioners found that they could improve the Divisions originally proposed by them by including the whole of the ward, which had been divided into four parts in one Division, thus reducing the number of intersected wards to three, leaving twelve undivided, and by substituting well-known thoroughfares in those cases where they had, in the first instance, followed parochial boundaries.

It has been asserted that, so far as regards substantial equality of population, the balance of opinion will be in favour of the Corporation scheme; but the following comparative statement, which has been prepared for us, omitting inmates of work-houses, asylums, and prisons, and military in barracks, does not bear out that assertion:—

<i>Commissioners' Scheme.</i>				<i>Corporation Scheme.</i>			
North-west Division	-	-	65,916	West Division	-	-	62,152
North-east	"	-	67,418	North-east	"	-	65,209
South-east	"	-	65,593	South	"	-	66,563
South-west	"	-	62,287	South-east	"	-	67,287
			<u>261,211</u>				<u>261,211</u>

Greatest differences in population of the Divisions—

Commissioners' scheme	-	5,129
Corporation	"	- 5,185

We think it right to add that, although no written report was furnished to us by the Commissioners who held the inquiries for the county and borough of Dublin, we had before us a very full newspaper report of the proceedings at the inquiries when deciding these cases.

March 17, 1885.

J. L.
F. R. S.